

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): In a computer system including an auxiliary control, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a first physical presence proximate to or contacting a first auxiliary control for a predefined period in which the first auxiliary control maintains an inactive state; and

generating feedback responsive to said step of detecting, the feedback providing an indication of the functionality of the first auxiliary control, the functionality of the first auxiliary control and associated feedback being dependent upon which one of a plurality of application programs is active.

Claim 2 (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the feedback includes acoustic feedback.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The method according to claim 2, wherein the computer system has a game controller including the first auxiliary control.

Claim 4 (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the feedback includes tactile feedback.

Claim 5 (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the feedback includes at least one of visual feedback, acoustic feedback and/or tactile feedback.

Claim 6 (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of detecting further comprises detecting the first physical presence for the first predefined period in which both the first auxiliary control and a pointing device maintain an inactive state.

Claim 7 (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the computer system further includes a display screen, and said step of generating further includes the step of displaying a first display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The method according to claim 7, wherein the first display widget includes a user interface ~~through which a configured to receive user may input to change settings~~ of the functionality of the first auxiliary control.

Claim 9 (previously presented): In a computer system including an auxiliary control and a display, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a first physical presence proximate to or contacting the auxiliary control for a predefined period in which the auxiliary control maintains an inactive state; and

generating feedback responsive to said step of detecting, the feedback providing an indication of the functionality of the auxiliary control, said generating further including displaying a display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, wherein the display widget identifies a text macro, which is a block of text assigned to the first auxiliary control, and displays at least a portion of text corresponding to the text macro.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of:

detecting absence of the first physical presence proximate to or contacting the first auxiliary control for a second predefined period in which the first auxiliary control maintains the inactive state while displaying the first display widget; and

discontinuing display of the first display widget, responsive to detecting the absence of the first physical presence for the second predefined period in which the first auxiliary control maintains the inactive state.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of discontinuing display of the first display widget responsive to activation of a second auxiliary control.

Claim 12 (original): The method according to claim 11, further comprising the step of displaying the first display widget responsive to deactivation of the second auxiliary control when the first physical presence remains proximate to or in contact with the first auxiliary control.

Claim 13 (original): The method according to claim 12, wherein the second auxiliary control is the first auxiliary control.

Claim 14 (original): The method according to claim 11, further comprising the step of disabling display of the first display widget after deactivation of the second auxiliary control until after the first physical presence breaks contact with or is no longer proximate to the first auxiliary control.

Claim 15 (original): The method according to claim 14, wherein the second auxiliary control is the first auxiliary control.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The method according to claim 7, further comprising the steps of:

- detecting a second physical presence proximate to or contacting a second auxiliary control different from the first auxiliary control;

- generating second feedback responsive to said step of detecting the second physical presence, the second feedback indicating functionality associated with the second auxiliary control; and

- discontinuing display of the first display widget responsive to detecting the second physical presence.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The method according to claim 16, wherein said step of generating second feedback includes displaying a second display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting the second physical presence.

Claim 18 (previously presented): In a computer system including an auxiliary control and a display, a method comprising the steps of:

- detecting a first physical presence proximate to or contacting a first auxiliary control for a predefined period in which the first auxiliary control maintains an inactive state;

- generating first feedback responsive to said step of detecting, the first feedback providing an indication of the functionality of the first auxiliary control;

- detecting a second physical presence proximate to or contacting a second auxiliary control different from the first auxiliary control in which the second auxiliary control maintains an inactive state while detecting the first physical presence proximate to or contacting the first auxiliary control; and

- generating second feedback responsive to said step of detecting the second physical presence, the second feedback indicating functionality associated with the combination of the first auxiliary control and the second auxiliary control.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The method according to claim 18, wherein the first auxiliary control and the second auxiliary control correspond to separate controls on a keyboard input device.

Claim 20 (previously presented): In a computer system including an auxiliary control and a display screen, a method comprising the steps of:

- detecting a first physical presence proximate to or contacting a first auxiliary control without activating the first auxiliary control; and

- displaying a first display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the first display widget providing a tool tip associated with the first auxiliary control, the tool tip indicating one of an identity of a user, tuning of an audio application, tuning of a video application, volume control, control of a feature with multiple settings, a control function corresponding to a key combination, and an application that will be launched by activating the first auxiliary control, wherein the tool tip is a textual label.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The method according to claim 20, wherein the computer system has a keyboard including the first auxiliary control.

Claim 22 (original): The method according to claim 20, wherein the first auxiliary control is a button or key.

Claim 23 (original): The method according to claim 20, wherein the first auxiliary control is a combination of keys.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The method according to claim 20, wherein the computer system has a pointing device including the first auxiliary control and the first auxiliary control is a button.

Claim 25 (original): The method according to claim 20, wherein the tool tip identifies an application that will be launched by activating the first auxiliary control.

Claim 26 (original): The method according to claim 25, wherein the application is one of a word processing, spreadsheet, web browser, file explorer, calculator, or messaging application.

Claim 27 (original): The method according to claim 20, wherein said step of detecting further comprises detecting the first physical presence for a first predefined period in which both the first auxiliary control and a pointing device maintain an inactive state.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The method according to claim 20, further comprising the steps of:

detecting a second physical presence proximate to or contacting a second auxiliary control different from the first auxiliary control without activating the second auxiliary control;

displaying a second display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting the second physical presence, the second display widget providing a tool tip associated with the second auxiliary control; and

discontinuing display of the first display widget responsive to detecting the second physical presence.

Claim 29 (original): The method according to claim 28, wherein said step of displaying the second display widget includes displaying the second display widget responsive to simultaneous detection of the first physical presence and the second physical presence, the second display widget representing a tool tip associated with the combination of the first auxiliary control and the second auxiliary control.

Claim 30 (original): The method according to claim 20, further comprising the step of providing acoustic feedback responsive to said step of detecting.

Claim 31 (original): The method according to claim 20, further comprising the step of providing tactile feedback responsive to said step of detecting.